

# *2021-22 President's Report*



**EAST CENTRAL** With *You* In Mind  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE





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DOLLAR  
& \$ENSE

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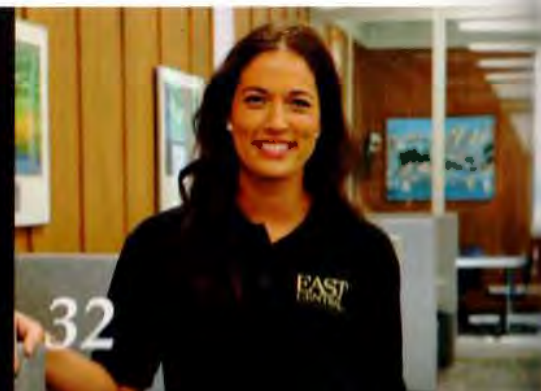
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## *A Message From the President*

To say beginning my first college presidency during a global pandemic was what I had envisioned would be a tremendous understatement. Becoming president of this outstanding institution and my alma mater is the pinnacle of my career and a lifelong dream come true. It was something I prepared for my entire career. But I also assumed it would come at a much less pivotal time in our history.

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic was new to all of us, but I believe East Central Community College handled it extremely well.



The Fall 2021 semester at East Central marked a full return to normal operations at the college for the first time since March 2020.

From campus enhancements to a 10-Year Reaffirmation of Accreditation visit by SACSCOC to numerous student achievements to a restructuring of our enrollment management operations to the opening of a new band hall, the past year was one of transition, growth, and success. We even rolled out a new—yet somewhat historic—tagline in January 2022. You will read about all of these accomplishments and more on the pages that follow.

I'm extremely proud of our students, our faculty and staff, our alumni and supporters, and our local communities for their diligence in ensuring East Central Community College came out of this pivotal time in our history stronger and more prepared for the future.

We remain the college With You In Mind.

Dr. Brent Gregory  
President  
East Central Community College  
#wym





## *ECCC Resumes Normal Operations in Fall 2021*

East Central Community College returned to normal operations beginning with the Fall 2021 Semester, including the return to a full schedule of traditional in-person classes, open facilities, enhanced student engagement opportunities, and full capacity at on-campus events.

The move marked a return to pre-COVID-19 operations for the first time since early in the Spring 2020 semester when the college closed its campus to students and visitors at the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, with classes transitioning to online and alternative delivery formats for the remainder of the spring and summer semesters.

ECCC continued to provide enhanced sanitation of classrooms and common areas, as well as increasing the already abundant amount of hand sanitizing stations in all areas of campus.

The college also offered free vaccination clinics in conjunction with Rush Health Systems and vaccination incentives for students and employees in an effort to boost the vaccination rate of the campus community.





## *Overnight Campus Access Changes*

ECCC made several changes to limit the amount of off-campus vehicle traffic moving through campus overnight to further enhance overall safety and security. Access gates were installed at both ends of the portion of 10th Street that runs through the center of campus. Access gates were also installed at the north end of Warrior Drive at the campus entrance from Highway 15 and on the south end of North 7th Street near one of the two campus entrances from Broad Street. The gates are closed from approximately 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. nightly and on extended school holidays. The only entrance to campus during those times is off Broad Street at North 6th Avenue.

## *HEERF Fund Distribution to Students*

Over six academic terms, the college distributed more than \$6 million in federal COVID-19 pandemic relief funds directly to students. The funding came from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, or HEERF, stimulus packages passed by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide some relief from the economic fallout related to the COVID-19 pandemic.







## *2021-22 Student Body Officers*

These sophomore students were selected to serve as officers of the East Central Community College Student Body Association for the 2021-22 school year. They are (from left) Maggie Kirk of Louisville, a pre-nursing major, SBA Treasurer; Alex Weir of Hickory, an athletic training major, SBA Secretary; Gianna Esposito of Union, a business administration major, SBA Vice President; and Kenay'zha Germany of Union, a sophomore pre-medicine major, SBA President.

## *Dollars & Sense Quality Enhancement Plan*

Following a two-year collaborative process involving the entire campus community, ECCC chose a financial literacy initiative known as Dollars & Sense as its Quality Enhancement Plan topic as it prepared for 10-Year Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Beginning in Fall 2021, the college began offering practical and applicable financial-oriented content to first-time college students through the freshman orientation course LLS 1312 Warrior Path to Success with credits counting toward graduation. The college's on-site visit by the SACSCOC accreditation team was over three days in September.

**DOLLAR**  **& SENSE**





East Central  
was a part  
of the  
starting  
steps of  
the rest of  
my life.

- IAN KENNEDY,  
*BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR*

With You In Mind





## *Men's Golf Returns*

The ECCC Men's Golf Team returned to action in Fall 2021 for the first time in nearly three years, giving the college a total of 10 men's and women's varsity sports teams.

The program was suspended in November of 2017, but play continued through the spring of 2018 as the Warriors traveled to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Golf Championships at Glen Lakes Golf Club in Foley, Ala., where the team finished in 12th place. The trip was East Central's first-ever appearance in the event.

"We are excited to bring this program back as it will provide students yet another way to participate in athletics and grow as

individuals," said ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory. "East Central has a tradition of producing competitive teams and we look forward to great days ahead with our golf program."

The storied tradition of East Central's golf team goes back decades as the program was originally started in the late 1970s by Joe Clark, who coached the team for 30 years. Joe's son, Chris Clark, has been named head coach of the program. He led the team from 2011-2018, prior to the program being suspended, and earned Mississippi Association of Coaches Community College Golf Co-Coach of the Year in that final season. He is assisted by physical education instructor and former Lady Warrior softball coach Scott Hill.





## *New Foundation, Alumni Leadership*

Two alumna with nearly 50 years of experience working at ECCC were chosen to lead the college's major gifts fundraising and alumni relations efforts.

Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth (left) is the new Executive Director of the Foundation. Maria McLeod will oversee the college's Alumni Association as part of her expanded duties in the Office of Public Information.

Hollingsworth transferred to the position from her duties as the college's Director of Admissions and Records. She reports directly to the president and coordinates daily operations as well as the fundraising efforts of the East Central Community College Foundation, Inc.

McLeod, who has served as assistant to the vice president for public information for the past 24 years, will now direct the Alumni Association as part of her responsibilities as Director of External Relations.



## Outstanding Alumni Honored



East Central recognized four outstanding alumni during its 2021 Homecoming celebration in October.

Jerald Everett of Clinton (center), a Hickory native and retired human resources consultant with the Social Security Administration, and Louisville native Paula Simmons Waggoner of Starkville (left), a retired missionary, were recognized as Alumnus and Alumna of the Year, respectively. Everett was a member of the Class of 1964 and Waggoner the Class of 1971.

Former Warrior football players James Mitchell (right), a Hickory native who resides in Nashville and serves as chaplain for the NFL's Tennessee Titans, and Ronnie Parker, a Decatur native who now resides in Haymarket, Va., and is a fitness and personal training consultant, were the Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Mitchell was a member of the Class of 1981 and Parker the Class of 1982.

The four alumni were honored at a reception in Brackeen-Wood Gym and then again during the pre-game ceremonies of the annual Homecoming game that followed in Bailey Stadium.



## Homecoming Queen

Sophomore elementary education major Kiersten Selman (second from left) of Madison was crowned Homecoming Queen during ceremonies October 14 at Bailey Stadium. Selman received her crown from President Dr. Brent Gregory (left) during halftime of the Warriors' game vs. Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Serving as Miss Selman's escort was Austin Lee (third from left) of Madison. At right is 2020 queen Courtney Gill of Carthage who presented the new queen with a bouquet of roses.



## *Most Beautiful*

East Central Community College sophomore elementary education major Madison Delancey (center) of Union was selected Most Beautiful at the college's annual pageant in November. Delancey is a graduate of Union High School. She was crowned by ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory (left) and last year's Most Beautiful Gianna Esposito, a sophomore business major from Union and Union High School.



## *Student-Athletes Earn Halbrook Award*

ECCC graduates RJ Holifield of Stringer and Sydney Rone of Ethel received the Halbrook Award, presented annually to student-athletes at Mississippi's public and private, two- and four-year postsecondary institutions.

The David M. Halbrook Certificate for Academic Achievement Among Athletes recognizes the efforts of individual student-athletes who excel in academics, leadership, and service.

Holifield was a defensive lineman on the ECCC football team for two years. He was a two-time recipient of Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference Academic All-State honors and Third Team National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic honors.

Rone, a multi-position softball player, earned Distinguished MACCC All-State and First Team NJCAA All-Academic honors both years.



I really enjoy  
the four-day  
schedule. I'm able  
to schedule my  
classes around my  
time, and be off on  
Fridays and work  
when I need to.

- REAGAN TOLBIRD,  
PRE-MED MAJOR

With You In Mind







## *Williams Named Football All-American*

East Central Community College landed its 10th-ever National Junior College Athletic Association First Team All-American selection in Desmond Williams after a standout year on the gridiron in 2021.

Williams, a third-year sophomore from Forsyth, Ga., shined at defensive back in his final season for the Warriors. He led the NJCAA through the regular season in interceptions with seven. His most notable performance came against Pearl River when he posted an ECCC record four interceptions on the way to a 17-14 win. He earned Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference and NJCAA Defensive Player of the Week honors.

He also finished the season second in the nation in pass breakups with 14 and he led the nation with four blocks on special teams. Additionally, he racked up 304 kickoff return yards and returned a punt for an 81-yard touchdown.

Williams signed with the University of Tennessee to continue his academic and athletics careers.

## *"Best for Vets" College*

ECCC was named a 2021 "Best for Vets" college by *Military Times*. East Central was one of only three community colleges in Mississippi to be included in the annual rankings, and one of only six two-year or four-year institutions in the state to be honored for support to veterans. Surveys sent to colleges and universities across the United States and public data obtained from the Department of Education and Department of Veterans Affairs are used to determine the rankings.







## *Sharp Named Humanities Teacher of Year*

Music and Keyboard Instructor Dr. Justin Sharp was selected the college's Humanities Teacher of the Year.

As part of the honor, he presented a public lecture *The Nocturne: Listening to Music Through Imagery and Imagination*. He was also recognized during the Mississippi Humanities Council's Public Humanities Awards Ceremony in Jackson in March.

A graduate of East Central, he received a Bachelor of Music degree from Mississippi College and a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Texas.

In addition to his work as a pianist, he is a composer and arranger, with performances of his music at numerous music festivals and conferences throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He has also worked extensively on numerous projects in the development of music curriculum.



## *Gibson to Lead College to Competitive Cheer Team*

ECCC is transitioning to a competitive cheerleading team and former Ole Miss Rebel cheerleader Bailey Gibson is going to lead the effort.

She began her new duties as the new head cheer coach following the completion of the 2021 football season. Gibson has been the college's Warrior Wellness Coordinator since August 2020.

Gibson is a graduate of Northeast Lauderdale High School and helped cheer the Trojans to three state high school cheer championships.

After graduation, she continued her academic and cheerleading career at the University of Mississippi, where she was a member of the Rebel Coed Cheer Team for three years, earning the Chucky Mullins Cheerleading Award during the 2018-19 school year.

Gibson previously has worked as a cheerleading instructor at East Mississippi Cheerleading in Meridian and as a fitness instructor, also in Meridian. She is an ACE (American Council on Exercise) certified Group Fitness Instructor.

EC's Cheer Team will transition to a competitive program over the next few years.

Members of the Warrior Cheer Team receive a full-tuition scholarship and cheer at all home and away football games and home basketball contests, pep rallies, parades, and other events.





# With You In Mind



There is much to be learned from the history of East Central Community College. As the college moves towards its Centennial in 2028, it is envisioning the future while always embracing its past.

For nearly 100 years, East Central Community College has had the best interests of its students in mind. This is evident in many ways. Taking care of the academic and life needs of students is what ECCC is known for and what makes this small college in rural Decatur, Mississippi, so special. East Central has always had its students in mind.

With that said, it was time the college started telling that story again. In Spring 2022, East Central Community College adopted With You In Mind as its new—yet somewhat historic—tagline. With You In Mind was used in marketing campaigns several years ago.

It is a return to the promise East Central Community College has long held that its students will be its No 1 priority.

With You In Mind has been incorporated into college communications in many ways, including TV and digital advertising, radio advertising, social media, videos, the website, and much more. To see some of these communications, visit [www.eccc.edu/with-you-in-mind](http://www.eccc.edu/with-you-in-mind). #wym





## *Joint \$1.4 Million Grant to Grow Utility Lineman Programs*

ECCC and Meridian Community College are teaming up to grow their Utility Lineman programs thanks to a \$1.4 million grant from the Mississippi Office of Workforce Development, also known as Accelerate Mississippi. The grant is allowing both colleges to expand their programs by hiring additional instructors and purchasing equipment.

Mississippi Office of Workforce Development Executive Director Ryan Miller, who made the grant announcement, said there's a great need for utility line workers in the state of Mississippi.

ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory (right) stressed the importance of the colleges, located just 30 miles apart, to work together, not just on growing the Utility Lineman programs through this grant, but on future workforce development and training projects that benefit the counties they represent: Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston.

"We are extremely excited about this partnership and the funds to grow these two programs," said Gregory. "East Central Community College has had a Utility Lineman Program for quite some time and this grant will enable us to grow this program, a program that gets individuals out in the workforce, not only in an area of need but in a job where individuals are able to support their families and stay in our communities."

ECCC's 16-week Utility Lineman Program was launched in February 2019 to prepare students for entry-level employment in utility power transmission and distribution construction, troubleshooting, and repair to meet a need in that field.





## *New Carson Band Hall Opens*

East Central officially opened its new Thomas W. Carson Band Hall with a ribbon cutting ceremony March 8.

The new facility is named in memory of Tom Carson, who was associated with East Central for more than half his life, including two years as a student and 30 years as an employee. He served as director of bands, music instructor, and for three years as chair of the Fine Arts Division.

In addition to a large practice hall for the college's Wall O' Sound Marching Band, the nearly 11,000-square-foot, \$3.5 million Carson Band Hall houses music practice studios, music teaching studios, instrument storage, a music library, and office space.

"I can't think of a building on this campus that will be used more than this one will or that was needed more than this one was," said ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory. "This is a wonderful opportunity for East Central Community College and named for an individual who meant so much to our college and our band program."

The new facility will be used by the nearly 200-member Wall O' Sound Band, along with the Concert Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, and music majors.





It's easy to  
get plugged  
in here on  
campus and  
there's a  
huge sense of  
family here.

- KESHAWN DAVIS,  
COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

With You In Mind



## *Dylan Shields Returns Home*

Former Warrior assistant basketball coach Dylan Shields has returned home as the college's new head men's basketball coach.

Shields comes back to ECCC after serving as the assistant men's basketball coach/redshirt program coordinator at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, for the previous four seasons. Under Shields' leadership, the Buccaneers picked up 75 wins in four seasons, had eight NJCAA All-Region IX players, and sent 10 players to NCAA Division I programs. Shields was named the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Assistant Coach of the Year for his efforts during the 2019-20 season.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and his master's from Southern Arkansas University.

A full-page photograph of Dylan Shields, a man with short brown hair and a beard, smiling. He is wearing a white short-sleeved polo shirt with an Under Armour logo and a small 'WARRIORS' logo on the left chest, black athletic pants, and grey sneakers. He is standing on a polished wooden basketball court. In the background, a large black banner with 'EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE' in white and 'WARRIORS' in large, bold, gold letters is visible. The court floor has a large blue and white logo that says 'ECCC' and 'WARRIORS' in gold. A basketball hoop is visible in the upper left background.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**WARRIORS**





## *Vickers Legacy Event Raises Money for Founders Renovation*

East Central Community College, along with the family of the late Ovid and Carol Vickers, hosted “Gladly Would They Teach, Gladly Would They Learn” in April, a legacy fundraiser honoring the lives of the Vickers who were two of the college’s most beloved and influential educators.

The luncheon event in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium has already raised more than \$17,000 to help renovate Founders Gymnasium into an events and activities center.

Among those participating in the event were daughters Nona and Harriet Vickers, Mississippi State University Chief Communications Officer and Director of Public Affairs Sid Salter, former ECCC Fine Arts Division Chair Vicki Blaylock, former Warrior basketball player and Head Men’s Basketball Coach Maurice Bowie, former Head Men’s Basketball Coach Marty Cooper, former Warrior basketball player Marcus Mann, and Vice President for Student Services Dr. Randall Lee.

Ovid Vickers, who died March 31, 2020, joined the then East Central Junior College faculty in 1955 and would later serve as chair of the English Department for many years. Throughout his career, he was not only a teacher, but was also a published poet, newspaper columnist, public speaker, playwright, practicing folklorist, and a collector of antiques. He retired in 1995.

He published two books with profits benefiting the ECCC Foundation.

Carol Vickers, who died August 19, 2020, was a well-known quilter and author, whose professional talent and greatest career achievement were as a classroom English teacher in the Decatur public schools from 1966-1982 and as an instructor at East Central from 1983 until her 1992 retirement.





If you want to be  
at a campus that  
gives you hope and  
motivation and  
makes you feel  
at home, then go  
to East Central.

- KENAY'ZHA GERMANY,  
PRE-MED MAJOR

With You In Mind





## *All-Mississippi Academic Team*

ECCC sophomores (from left) Madison McLemore of Forest, Keshawn Davis of Morton, and Myla Sanders of Lake were named to the 2021-22 Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team.

McLemore was named to the All-Mississippi First Team and received a \$1,000 scholarship, while Davis and Sanders were named to the Second Team. The students received medallions and certificates at the college's Awards Ceremony April 21.

The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team recognizes scholarly achievements and

leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

McLemore is a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center and a pre-nursing major. Davis is a graduate of Morton High School and a computer science major. Sanders is a graduate of Lake High School and a surgical technology major.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by Phi Theta Kappa, Mississippi Association of Community Colleges, and Mississippi Community College Board. PTK is the international honor society for two-year colleges.



## *Mr. and Miss ECCC*

Trey Nichols of Morton and Taylor Gregory of Louisville were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for the 2021-22 school year by vote of the student body. Nichols, a graduate of East Rankin Academy, is a pre-nursing major. Gregory is a graduate of Winston Academy and a pre-medicine major.





## *Six Students Inducted into Hall of Fame*

Six new inductees joined the East Central Community College Student Hall of Fame during the annual Awards Ceremony in April.

The newest Hall of Fame members are Keshawn Davis of Morton, Gianna Esposito of Union, Mabry Mayfield of Carthage, Magdelyn Kirk of Louisville, Heston Harrison of Little Rock, and Annabelle Miller of Lucedale.

Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college. Among the criteria used by those selecting Hall of Fame recipients are exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership, and contributions to the betterment of East Central Community College.

Davis, a computer science major, was president of the President's Council, co-president of Warrior Corps, and president of Alpha Alpha Epsilon.

Esposito, a business administration major, was president of the Student Body Association, president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and editor of the *Wo-He-Lo* yearbook.

Mayfield, a pre-nursing major, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Warrior Corps, and Centralettes Dance Team.

Kirk, a pre-nursing major, was treasurer of the Student Body Association, president of Phi Theta Kappa in the fall, and a member of the Warrior Cheerleading Squad.

Harrison, a pre-medicine major, was president of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Miller, a pre-pharmacy major, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and All-Conference and All-Region as a member of the Lady Warrior Soccer Team.





## *Anderson Inducted Into State Sports Hall of Fame*

ECCC alumnus Tim Anderson was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies in April.

Anderson is a 2013 graduate of East Central and the current starting shortstop for Major League Baseball's Chicago White Sox.

While playing for the Warriors, he was named a first-team National Junior College Athletic Association Division II All-American in 2013 and NJCAA All-Region 23 and MACJC All-State in both 2012 and 2013. He was the NJCAA Male Athlete of the Year in 2013.

Anderson was drafted by the White Sox in 2013 as the 17th overall selection in the MLB Draft. During the 2019 season, he won the Major League Batting Title with a .335 average, with career-highs of 167 hits and 32 RBI. He made his first Major League All-Star Game debut during the 2021 season.

## *Sports Teams Qualify for Postseason*

Several ECCC sports teams qualified for Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference and/or National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 and NJCAA national postseason play during the year.

Men's and women's basketball both advanced to the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament, Lady Warrior softball competed in the MACCC playoffs, and Warrior baseball finished its season in the NJCAA Region 23 playoffs.

Two men's golfers qualified for the NJCAA Region DII Gulf District Tournament.

The Warrior men's tennis team advanced to the NJCAA DI Men's National Tournament, finishing No. 20 in the nation.







## *ECCC's 8 Varsity Tennis Courts Named for Donors*

The courts at the ECCC Tennis Complex on campus were named for donors to the program during an April ceremony. They include:

- Raymond McMullan ECCC 1968-2000, named for former ECCC Director of Admissions, Records, and Research Raymond McMullan.
- Brent and Bart Gregory Court, named for former ECCC tennis player Bart Gregory and ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory.
- Smith & Peoples Court, named for former State/Region Tournament doubles champions Hannah Peoples and Macken'z Smith Bradford.
- Cheryl L. Comans Court, named for former ECCC women's tennis player Cheryl Comans.
- Wellerman Court, named former State/Region Tournament singles champion Bethany Wellerman Everett.
- Bill and Becky Wheeler Court, named for former Warrior tennis player Bill Wheeler and his wife, Becky.
- Brian and Stephanie Shaw Court, named for former ECCC tennis players Brian and Stephanie Shaw.
- Lucille Wood Court, named in memory of former ECCC instructor and coach Lucille Wood.

Proceeds will support the Tennis Pavilion Fund Project.

Completed in 2017, the ECCC Tennis Complex includes eight lighted courts to serve the college's men's and women's varsity tennis teams, as well as the campus and local communities.





## *Commencement Returns to Campus*

ECCC held Commencement ceremonies on campus in December and May for the first time in many years.

Students who completed degree requirements following the Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 semesters were invited to participate in commencement on December 10.

Those completing degree requirements following the Spring 2022 semester could participate in one of four ceremonies May 5-6. Associate Degree Nursing students were pinned on Thursday, May 5. On Friday, May 6, there was a ceremony for Career-Technical graduates and two ceremonies for graduates of academic programs.

All ceremonies were held in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus and were shown on live stream at [www.eccclive.com](http://www.eccclive.com).





## Top Employees Honored

The college honored its instructor and staff member of the year at an end-of-the-year Employee Recognition Reception in April. Honored as Staff Member of the Year was Karen Robertson (left), administrative assistant to the vice president for public information. Honored as the Instructor of the Year was Chris Ryals (center), engineering technology instructor. They were each presented with a plaque and a \$500 check from ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory. The college's Foundation supports the Staff Member of the Year award and the Alumni Association supports the Instructor of the Year award.



## Ferguson Named Moody Institute Fellow

Christy Ferguson, business and office technology instructor, was one of four community college instructors in Mississippi to be named a 2022 Moody Institute Fellow.

The Moody Institute provides funds for enrichment experiences for full-time faculty members employed in the state's public community colleges. Awards are based on how a proposed enrichment activity will enhance the faculty member's professional knowledge/ability, how it will help the faculty member grow in his/her content area, and the originality of the activity.

Ferguson serves as an advisor for the college's Theta Chi chapter of Phi Beta Lambda and was ECCC's Instructor of the Year in 2016-17.





One thing I  
considered  
as the most  
important  
part is you  
feel like  
family.

- ZULLY REYES-GARCIA,  
SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

With You In Mind







## *Elkins to Lead Wall O' Sound Band*

The college announced new leadership for the Wall O' Sound Band. Tiffany Elkins is the new director of bands beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

Elkins served as temporary band director and music instructor during the Spring 2022 semester.

In her new role, she will direct the nearly 200-member Wall O' Sound Marching Band, as well as the college's Concert Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, and Percussion Ensemble.

Elkins received a bachelor's degree in instrumental music and master's degree in education from the University of North Alabama and a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of Florida.

Prior to her time at East Central, she was an adjunct professor of music at the University of North Alabama and a student teaching intern with Florence (Ala.) City Schools, as well as a graduate assistant at both UNA and the University of Florida while working on her master's degrees.



## *ECCC Employees Graduate from MCCLA*

ECCC employees Alicia Beasley (center) and Tyler Yates (left) completed the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy in Spring 2022.

They received their diplomas and medals of completion from ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory during a graduation ceremony on the Mississippi State University campus.

Beasley is director of eLearning Education, and Yates is an accountant in the college's Business Office.

The pair completed an Action Plan as part of the training aimed at improving student awareness about and involvement in events on the ECCC campus in Decatur.

The year-long leadership program consists of workshops designed to strengthen supervisory and management skills, using participants' current work situations to apply new skills and tools. It is also an opportunity to network and strengthen system-wide collaborative efforts.



## *CTE Leadership Academy Graduate*

LeAnn Shirley, director of the college's Surgical Technology Program, graduated from the Mississippi Community College Board's 2022 Career Technical Education Leadership Academy. She is shown with David Case, executive vice president. The yearlong MCCB Career Technical Leadership Academy annually offers practical and hands-on experience for statewide professional career technical administrators.





## *Campus Enhancements*

Many improvements and additions were made to campus during the academic year.

In addition to the opening of the new Thomas W. Carson Band Hall and the access gate project, some of these changes included:

- New locker rooms for men's and women's soccer.
- Indoor hitting facilities for softball and baseball.
- New outdoor digital signage for front and north campus and new indoor digital signage in five buildings.
- An extension to the current walking trail on the north end of campus, thanks to assistance from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, Board of Trustee member Edsel Cliburn, alumnus Wayne Comans and wife Sandy, and the Lamberth Foundation of Mississippi.
- A new intramural/soccer practice field.

- Installation of a glass partition in Burton Library to separate the library area from the expanding Student Success Center (pictured above).

- Extensive renovation of the Chemistry Lab in Cross Hall.

Upcoming projects include:

- Replacing the existing lighting at athletics fields with LED lights and adding LED lighting at the Soccer Complex.
- Installation of a new ADA compliant handicap access ramp to Huff Auditorium.
- Construction of a new cafeteria with updated Board Room and meeting areas.
- Renovation of the current South Campus Gym to be the new Wellness Center.
- Renovation of Founders Gymnasium to serve as an events and activities center, among other uses.





## *Nine Students Take Top Honors at National PBL Conference*

All nine ECCC students participating in the 2022 Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference in Chicago in June received national recognition

In addition to individual honors, ECCC's Theta Chi Chapter of PBL received Gold Seal recognition and was listed as an Outstanding Chapter.

ECCC students winning national PBL honors were Perla Lopez of Sebastopol and Hannah Mowdy of Union, First Place in Local Chapter Annual Business Report; Cezar Arroyo Torres of Morton, Second Place in Digital Media; Margarita Castillo of Forest and Jennifer Hammond of Decatur, Third Place in Hospitality Management; Guillermo Espinoza Fermin of Forest, Janna Pinter of Philadelphia, and Torres, Third Place in Human Resource Management; Rachel Jackson of Philadelphia and Armando Lopez of Carthage, Fourth Place in Financial Services; and Castillo, Mowdy, and Pinter, Sixth Place in Business Presentation.

Torres was recognized as Mississippi's Who's Who in PBL. Only one student from the state of Mississippi receives this recognition.

## *ECCC Joins Appalachian Regional Commission*

East Central Community College was invited to join Community Colleges of Appalachia, an affiliated council of the American Association of Community Colleges.

CCA provides programs and services for its more than 100 members responsive to the unique cultural, geographic, and economic challenges facing the Appalachian Region. The CCA promotes the creation of relationships that result in mutual advantages among institutions, organizations, and individuals engaged or interested in the educational and economic development of the region.

Community colleges eligible for membership must primarily offer a two-year associate degree or diploma and be located within the Appalachian region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission

ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory and David Case, Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness/Chief of Staff attended the CCA's Annual Conference in Asheville, N.C., in June.





## *Enrollment Management Restructure*

The college began a restructuring of its student recruiting and retention efforts in June 2022 to be more in line with best practices in colleges and universities across the nation.

The new position of Executive Director for Enrollment Management was created and filled. Dr. Marie Roberts, with extensive career experience in both secondary and post-secondary education, including as Director of Student Recruiting and Campus Life at a community college, was selected to lead the effort.

Roberts will oversee the college's student recruiting, admissions, placement, registration, and retention efforts. This includes the Office of Admissions and the Student Success Center.

New positions created to aid that effort include Native American Liaison & Enrollment Management Specialist, Athletic Enrollment Management Specialist, and Director of Student Success.



## *Students Place at National SkillsUSA Competition*

ECCC students returned home from SkillsUSA's National Leadership and Skills Conference with several top finishes, including second place nationally in Opening and Closing Ceremony. The event was held in June in Atlanta, Ga.



The college's Opening and Closing Ceremony team of Tayler Cochran of Decatur, Kayleigh Long of Philadelphia, Kelsey Pegram of Union, Asten Russell of Little Rock, Kady Townsend of Meridian, William Tarlton of Preston, and Brianna Young of Louisville captured second place.

Finishing fourth nationally in Promotional Bulletin Board were Kaitlyn Irwin of Decatur, Hayley Loper of Decatur, and Sanaa Merrell of Philadelphia.

Makayla Wash of Newton finished seventh in the Job Skills Demonstration Open category and Colton Trapp of Philadelphia finished 10th in Cabinetmaking.

## *Student-Athletes Recognized Nationally for Academics*

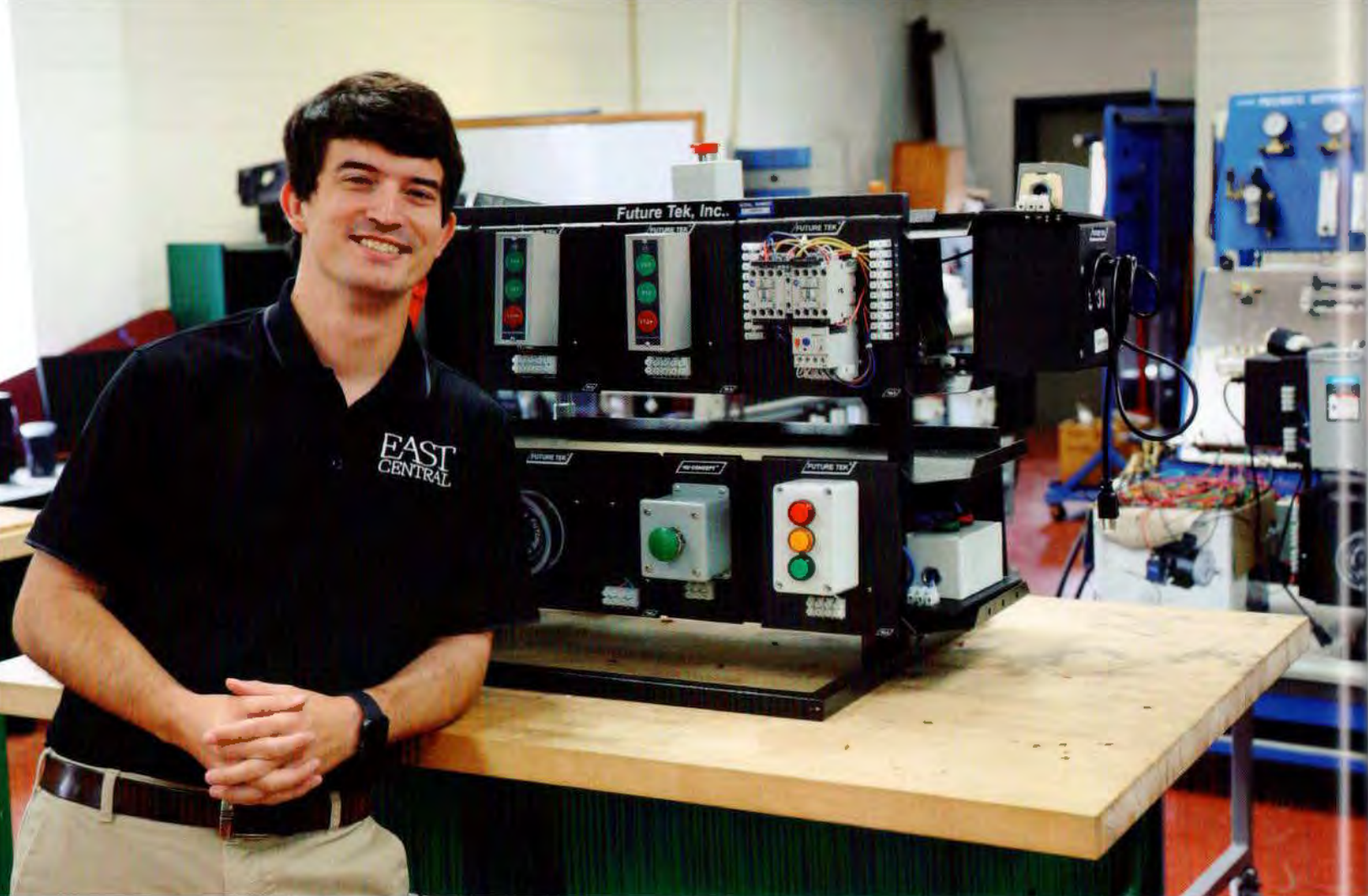
ECCC had 73 student-athletes honored by the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference for their academic performances in the 2021-22 school year, with 39 of those earning National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic honors.

At the conference level, awards are separated into Distinguished Academic All-State for student-athletes who maintain GPAs of 3.8 or higher and Academic All-State for those with GPAs ranging from 3.25 to 3.79. At the national level, awards are broken down into three categories: First Team (4.0 GPA), Second Team (3.8-3.99), and Third Team (3.6-3.79).

East Central had eight student-athletes earning NJCAA All-Academic First Team honors across four different sports. Those recipients were Seline Decoteau of Pascagoula and Annabelle Miller of Lucedale (women's soccer); Emmi Harkins of Carthage, Ndrah Tanksley of Philadelphia, and Caroline Jackson of Philadelphia (softball); Kaleb Parish of Mathiston and Dominik Simunovic of Croatia (men's tennis); and Spencer Winans of Vancleave (men's soccer).

Six teams qualified for the NJCAA Academic Team of the Year by maintaining a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. Those teams included softball (3.58), women's soccer (3.53), men's tennis (3.45), baseball (3.23), women's tennis (3.05), and golf (3.01).





## *Spence Named New Director of Career and Technical Education*

East Central Community College named Cody Spence as its new Director of Career and Technical Education going into the next academic year.

In this role, the ECCC alumnus is responsible for leadership of the college's Career and Technical Education programs, including on the Decatur campus and those offered in the college's five-county district. ECCC offers certificates and the Associate of Applied Science degree in 14 technical programs and certificates in three career programs.

Spence has been serving as a Workforce Coordinator at ECCC since 2016. Prior to that he was a TAACCCT (Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training) Navigator. He also has worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services.



## *Dr. Everett to Lead ECCC's Healthcare Education Programs*

Dr. Donna Everett was named the new Dean of Healthcare Education at ECCC beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

She will oversee the health-related programs, including the Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing programs, Basic Emergency Technology course, and Surgical Technology program.

She also will work closely with the college's Workforce Development program on other health-related certifications.

Everett, who has more than 27 years of nursing experience, has been on the ECCC nursing faculty since 2018, serving as Director of the Nursing Faculty for the ADN program since 2020 and as Interim Dean of Healthcare Education since March 2022.





# Board of Trustees



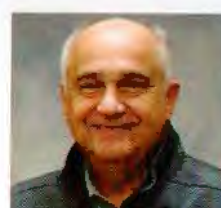
**Bobby Boone  
Leake**



**W.B. Jones  
Leake**



**William Kitchings  
Leake**



**Pete Lucovich  
Leake**



**Jamie Shepard  
Leake**



**Dr. Lundy Brantley  
Supt. of Education**



**David Byars  
Neshoba**



**Edsel Cliburn  
Neshoba**



**Prentice Copeland  
Neshoba**



**Ricky Goldman  
Neshoba**



**Jerry Smith  
Neshoba  
(Vice Chairman)**



**J.O. Amis  
Supt. of Education**



**Henry Booth  
Newton**



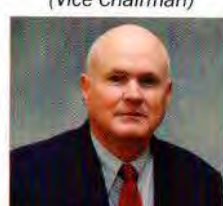
**Pat Cleveland  
Newton**



**Beverly Hart  
Newton**



**Dr. Danny Lanier  
Newton**



**Joel Nelson  
Newton**



**Rebecca Farris  
Scott**



**Tommy Harrison  
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Supt. of Education**



**Jerry Nance  
Winston  
(Secretary)**



**Leo Parker  
Winston**



# College Leadership



**Dr. Brent Gregory**  
*President*



**David Case**  
*Executive Vice President*



**Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth**  
*Executive Director  
of the Foundation*



**James Miller**  
*Dean of Student Services*



**Dr. Marie Roberts**  
*Executive Director for  
Enrollment Management*



**Mickey Vance**  
*Vice President for  
Business Operations*



**Bill Wagnon**  
*Vice President for  
Public Information*

## Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

## Non-Discrimination

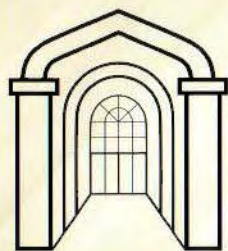
East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following offices have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and ADEA are coordinated by the Executive Vice President, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, Email: [compliance@eccc.edu](mailto:compliance@eccc.edu).

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX and Section 504 are coordinated by the Dean of Student Services, Eddie M. Smith Student Union Building, Room 101, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6267, Fax: 601-635-6247, Email: [compliance@eccc.edu](mailto:compliance@eccc.edu).

Inquiries regarding compliance with ADA are coordinated by the Director of Student Success, Mamie Ethel Burton Memorial Library, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6228, Fax: 601-635-2150, Email: [compliance@eccc.edu](mailto:compliance@eccc.edu).





**EAST CENTRAL**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**With *you* In Mind**

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